

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of November 14, 2005**

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6): Community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo have met with the tenants at 1001, 1003 and 1005 University Blvd. to discuss their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase law. The tenants received notification on September 26 that there was a third party contract on the property for \$1,600,000. The tenants have told the city that they are not interested in exercising their right to purchase, however the County is considering its option to purchase the building. A meeting with the tenants and the County has been arranged for November 20. The County will have until November 24 to submit a matching contract. *(Housing and Community Development)*

State Park Operation & Design Meeting: The Recreation Director attended meeting at Park and Planning headquarters to discuss skate park operation and design. Representatives from many jurisdictions were present to share their knowledge and experience. It was clear that there is no single standard in the industry: some charge participants, others don't, some are concrete, modular or wood, some are supervised and others unsupervised. Takoma Park is still exploring the skate park option and the Recreation Director will be presenting an update to the Council in January. *(Recreation)*

Radio Rules Event: The Library's Children's Room was filled to capacity on Wed. Night, as award-winning radio producers Neenah Ellis, Marika Partridge, Emily Hanford and David Schulman discussed their work in a special program organized and moderated by Steve Mencher. Approximately 45 people attended "Radio Rules", billed as a precursor to the Takoma Park Film Festival which begins tonight. The Festival, which continues through Sunday night, will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Information is available at the Library, or at <http://www.takomaparkfilmfestival.org> *(Library)*

Halloween Event: The Annual Halloween Events were a huge success. The first ever Canine Costume contest had 20 participants and 40 spectators. The categories the dogs were vying for were cutest, scariest, funniest, and most original in two sections: big dogs and little dogs. There were costumed dogs, and dogs that were spray painted. Everyone, including the dogs, had a great time and are looking forward to next year. The human costume contest, parade, and bash had its biggest turn out in recent history. During the costume contest, contestants donned their fabulous costumes in hope of winning the coveted Funniest, Scariest, and Most Original costumes of the evening. They marched down the street in ghoulish delight to the bash. Piney Branch Elementary School's multipurpose was bursting at the seams with approximately 500 people boogieing to the Zydeco Crayz Band. *(Recreation)*

Patrol Detail: The high-visibility patrol detail in the Old Town/Metro area, coinciding with the switch to standard time, has concluded. (Ward 1 & 3) *(Police)*

Landlord-Tenant Services (all wards): Staff attended a training on November 17th for landlords of small rental properties sponsored by Montgomery Housing Partnership on Property Taxes and Insurance. Speakers included Charles Cluster, from the Maryland Dept. of Assessments and Taxation for Montgomery County, Joe Rice, from Rice Insurance Agency and Bill Geoffrion from Equity Management. The speakers discussed the formula for tax assessments and the appeal process and how to better protect yourself in terms of the various categories of property insurance for commercial properties. *(Housing and Community Development)*

Sligo Station Condominium Meeting: On Wed., Sgt. Gilbert of the COP Team attended a meeting of the Sligo Station Condominiums, Hudson Ave., (Ward 5) providing information on the Officers as Agents and Neighborhood Watch Programs and on Apartment Security Survey program. *(Police)*

Police Department Staff: Ofc. Butler of the COP Team has been detailed to a patrol team, Squad 2/Sgt. Hammond. Ofc. Wolff has been transferred to Squad 1/Sgt. Bowers. Ofc. McDowell and Ofc. Palmer have resigned to accept law enforcement positions in Frederick, Maryland closer to their homes. A dispatcher-in-training resigned after three weeks to accept another job outside law enforcement. The Recruiting Team continues to conduct background investigations on candidates for police and dispatch openings. *(Police)*

Police Training: One officer attended the two-day Crisis Intervention Team Training with Montgomery County this week. Twelve officers were scheduled for Counter Terrorism Training over the period Nov. 7 through Dec. 29 conducted by the Montgomery County Police Department, including two officers this week. *(Police)*

COG Meeting: Capt. Coursey participated in COG law enforcement technology subcommittee meeting. Lt. Cipperly will be on leave for the next week; Sgt. Collington will be acting commander of the investigations unit. *(Police)*

Recreation Training: The Afternoon Addition staff attended a team building workshop on Tuesday, November 1. They worked on communication and sharing as well as learning fun games to play with the kids in the program. *(Recreation)*